DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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INDICATORS ARE POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

San Bernardino. The San Bernardino County Mosquito and Vector Control Program (Vector Control) received confirmation that the following sources have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV):

- A third chicken from its sentinel chicken flock in the vicinity of Sierra Avenue and Arrow Highway in Fontana,
- Three mosquito groups in the same general location as above,
- One chicken from its sentinel chicken flock located near Frisbie Park in Rialto, and
- One mosquito group in the Shandin Hills area of the city of San Bernardino.

Mosquito pool analyses were conducted on various dates during the month of July and blood samples from sentinel chickens were sent for testing on August 9th. The positive results confirm that the virus is still very active in San Bernardino County.

Vector Control staff are looking for mosquito breeding sources and trapping adult mosquitoes for virus testing. Mosquitoes are dependent on standing water for breeding, so residents are encouraged to look for and eliminate any stagnant water on their properties. Mosquito activity is greatest during this time of the year. Due to the large number of stagnant pools in foreclosed and abandoned properties, Vector Control expects to see an increase in mosquito activity, which in turn increases the risk of WNV exposure to the public.

WNV is an ongoing public health concern. The public needs to be vigilant by reporting mosquito breeding sites to the County's Mosquito and Vector Control Program at **(909 388-4600)** and using personal protection.

San Bernardino County citizens can protect themselves from mosquito bites by taking the following precautions:

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- **Drain or Dump…**Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk…**Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress…**Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- **DEET…**Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors…**Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

Horses are susceptible to WNV, but a vaccine is available for them.   Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about timely vaccinations.

The San Bernardino County Mosquito and Vector Control Program encourages the public to participate in the WNV surveillance program by reporting dead birds to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV- BIRD or on-line at WWW.WNV.CA.GOV.

If you are in the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Montclair, or Rancho Cucamonga contact West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 909-635-0307. For more information about WNV or to report dead birds, visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol.

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